

R E M A R K S

A number of interviews were held by Examiner Abdin with the parent application. The Examiner's courtesy is greatly appreciated.

To advance prosecution, the number of claims is reduced herein, and the claims are amended. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in full compliance with 35 USC 112, and are also patentable over the known prior art.

It bears addressing US Patent 5,760,934, which was employed by the Examiner to reject the at least some of the claims in the parent application, under 35 USC 102.

Applicant had argued that the Examiner was incorrect in rejecting the claims, and still believes that the Examiner is incorrect.

The Examiner asserted that element MO1 in FIG. 2 of the reference corresponds to the optical director of claim 1. However, element MO1 is shown to have 12 physical connection points, or ports, with 6 on the left side, and 6 on the right side; and on the left side it has the following:

- (1) The port that is connected to a first fiber, which ONLY outputs an optical signal (from element I4N within MO1), with wavelengths λ_1 , λ_2 , λ_3 and λ_4 .
- (2) The port that is connected to a second fiber, from where a signal ONLY arrives (into element X4N within MO1), with wavelengths λ_1 , λ_2 , λ_3 and λ_4 .
- (3) The port connected to element ME1 that ONLY outputs a signal (from element X4N within MO1), at wavelength λ_4 .
- (4) The port connected to element ME1 that ONLY accepts a signal (into element I4N within MO1), at wavelength λ_4 ,
- (5) The port connected to element ME1 that ONLY outputs a signal (from element X4S within MO1), at wavelength λ_4 .
- (6) The port connected to element ME1 that ONLY accepts a signal (into element I4S within MO1), at wavelength λ_4 ,

The right side is complementary.

The important point to note in the above is that the element which the Examiner asserts to correspond to the optical director of claim 1 has NO connection points or ports that are bi-directional (since a bi-directional port is one that is configured to both deliver

and accept signals). In contradistinction, claim 1 in the parent case, and all of the claims herein call for bi-directional ports or connection points.

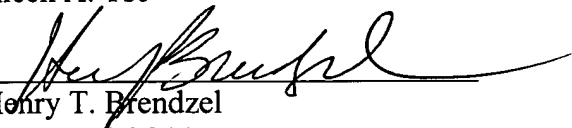
Favorable consideration of the instant claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully,
Thomas Afferton
Kenneth Duell
Simon Zelingher
Hossein Eslambolchi
Martin Birk
Kathleen A. Tse

Dated: _____

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By _____


Henry T. Brendzel
Reg. No. 26,844
Phone (973) 467-2025
Fax (973) 467-6589
email henry@brendzel.com